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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,502	12/05/2003	Hisao Suzuki	1131-0493P	7188

2292 7590 04/10/2006

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EXAMINER

HAUGLAND, SCOTT J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3654

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,502

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Scott Haugland

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McArthur (U.S. Pat. No. 3,559,859) in view of Holbrook et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,746).

McArthur discloses a web material feeding apparatus, comprising: a feeding path along which a web material extending from a roll is guided lengthwise, web guiding means 14, meandering detection means 18 downstream of the web guiding means 14, meandering correction means for correcting the deviation of the web material by shifting the web guiding means 14 in a direction across the feeding path, and guide members 17.

McArthur does not disclose a suction plate acting on the web.

Holbrook et al teaches providing a web guiding apparatus with guiding means 19 including a guide sleeve (23 or portions of the guiding means at either end of guiding surface 21 in the web travel direction) and a planar suction plate (including vacuum device 25) to more securely maintain a web in the web guiding means.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the web material feeding apparatus of McArthur with a suction plate and guide sleeve shiftable together on the guide shafts 16 of McArthur as taught by Holbrook et al in lieu of the guiding means 14 of McArthur to more securely maintain the web in the guiding means. The disclosed takeup reel of McArthur (col. 1, lines 52-56) is seen to be a feeding roller as claimed. Assuming, arguendo, that it is not, it would have been obvious to provide McArthur with a feeding roller separate from the takeup reel since it is old and well known to provide feeding rollers for feeding web to a takeup reel to limit or control tension in the web wound on the takeup reel.

With regard to claim 7, note that McArthur discloses a feed screw 67 on a first end of a guide shaft 16 (Fig. 5).

With regard to claim 10, it would have been obvious to connect the guide sleeve of the modified apparatus of McArthur to the suction plate by means of a connecting flange, bar, or plate which is seen to be a bracket within the broad meaning of the term. It would have been obvious since it is routine to use such means to connect machine parts.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McArthur (U.S. Pat. No. 3,559,859) in view of Holbrook et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Black et al (U.S. Pat. No. 3,679,112).

McArthur does not disclose a reservoir box.

Black et al teaches providing a web feeding apparatus with a reservoir box 14 having an outlet located near means 12 for controlling the lateral position of the web.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide McArthur with a reservoir box having an outlet located near the web guiding means 14 as taught by Black et al to permit a difference in feed rates between the web supply and take up to facilitate changing of the web supply while allowing uninterrupted processing of the web downstream of the reservoir box.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed 1/26/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the guide of McArthur as modified by Holbrook et al could not include a flat suction surface. However, Holbrook et al teaches providing a flat suction surface for guiding a web. The substitution of the web guiding surface taught by Holbrook et al including the flat suction surface for the web guiding surface 14 of McArthur would have been obvious to an ordinary artisan to obtain the improved guiding function taught by Holbrook et al.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Haugland whose telephone number is (571) 272-6945. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

**KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**

Art Unit: 3654

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


sjh
4/5/06


KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600